

CHAPTER 15

Providing Cable and Satellite Service Overseas (Non-AFRTS)

15-100 Overview

1. The American Forces Information Service, OASD(PA), through the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service Broadcast Center, is the only source authorized to negotiate for, procure, and distribute commercial and public broadcasting service programming to U.S. Forces overseas. Requests to bring additional radio and television broadcasting service to U.S. Forces overseas via non-AFRTS satellite receive stations and/or cable distribution systems must be approved by the American Forces Information Service.

15-101 Host-Nation Implications

1. Introduction of additional broadcast services into U.S. installations and/or housing areas overseas may impact many U.S. local command, DoD, and international agreements and regulations. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Status of Forces Agreements.
- b. Host Nation sensitivity issues.
- c. International copyright laws.
- d. Host-country rules concerning the ownership of satellite receive dishes , cable ownership and installation, authority to downlink satellite programming, and so forth.
- e. Directives pertaining to Department of Defense and/or Military Department internal information programs.

15-102 Contracting for Commercial Radio and Television Service

1. Commanders may propose introduction of satellite receive stations and cable distribution systems into overseas military installations and housing areas. In many locations, providing this service is feasible, but English language service available in the U.S. cannot be seen on satellites serving most of the overseas audience. In addition, even the limited English language and/or U.S.-style television service (i.e., pay service such as Home Box Office (HBO) and Cinemax) may be encrypted to prevent unauthorized reception. Franchise agreements and/or payment of fees are required to receive these services. As a result, overseas Commanders should investigate very closely the service being offered to determine its acceptability. U.S. Forces overseas must insure that any agreements for service are not in contravention with U.S. copyright laws.

2. Commanders are authorized to pursue providing this service on their installations. Inquiries concerning satellite receive stations and cabling should be routed through the overseas Component and Unified and/or Specified Command Public Affairs Officers to DoD AFIS/AFRTS. In case of the Navy Broadcasting Service, which has been given responsibility by the Chief of Naval Operations for review of all proposals for cable at Navy installations both in CONUS and overseas, both inquiries and proposals shall be routed from the Unified and/or Specified Command through Navy Broadcasting to AFIS.

3. Unified and/or Specified Commanders shall ensure the following detailed guidance is followed:

a. If AFRTS programming is included on a commercial or military installed cable system, that service must be provided to DoD personnel at no cost to the member.

b. The AFRTS signal must be strictly limited to the authorized audience (members of the Department of Defense and their families). Failure to comply with this restriction will jeopardize programming being provided worldwide.

c. Costs for installing, operating, and maintaining this cable system shall be the responsibility of the local command. AFRTS funding shall not be provided for these systems.

d. Members of the Department of Defense may contract for additional program services offered by the contractor on an individual basis. However, these additional services can in no way be tied to the reception of AFRTS.

e. Cable contractors must provide the Unified and/or Specified Commander and AFIS detailed proof that they have the broadcast and distribution rights to the programming being offered. The responsibility to obtain and document this copyright clearance rests with the individual cable contractor.

15-103 Requesting Procedures

1. Local Commanders desiring to provide additional radio and television services shall submit their request through their overseas Component and Unified and/or Specified Command Public Affairs Officer to the Department of Defense, OASD(PA), American Forces Information Service. An information copy of each request shall be provided to the Military Department Broadcasting Service that has geographic area responsibility by the Unified and/or Specified Command Public Affairs Officer. Requests shall include the specific documentation identified in the preceding paragraph.

2. Additionally, requests shall include:

a. Indication that funding for the project is available.

b. Specific break-out of the services being offered and their cost to the Service member (i.e., services included on each "tier," individual premium channels, and "pay-for-view" offerings).

c. Unified and/or Specified Commands shall forward these requests with their recommendation to the Department of Defense, OASD(PA), American Forces Information Service, ATTN: AFRTS, 601 North Fairfax Street, Room 360, Alexandria, VA 22314-2007.

3. Navy Broadcasting Service has established an office for screening and supporting requests for cable from field commanding officers. All Navy requests shall be forwarded through channels to NAVBCSTSVC prior to submission to AFIS.